

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Please amend Claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of pixels;  
a color filter array of four filters disposed on said plurality of pixels,  
wherein said color filter array has a periodicity unit of two rows x  
two columns; and  
an operation circuit which provides at least two different color  
difference signals ~~on the basis of using all the pixels included in~~ the periodicity unit ~~of two~~  
~~rows x two columns,~~  
wherein colors of the color filters in the periodicity unit of two rows  
x two columns are all different from each other and have fixed positions.
  
2. (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the color filters in the periodicity unit include a filter for transmitting only  
green light in a visible light range, a filter for intercepting only blue color in the visible  
light range, a filter for intercepting only green light in the visible light range, and a filter for  
intercepting only red light in the visible light range.

3. (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first operation unit which performs an operation of  $A + B - C - D$ , where A, B, C, and D represent signals picked up from an area of two rows x two columns.

4. (Original) An image pickup apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the signals A and B are disposed on a same line or on a same column, and the signals C and D are disposed on a same line or on a same column.

5. (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a second operation unit which performs an operation of  $A + C - B - D$ .

6. (Original) An image pickup apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the signals A and B are disposed on a same line or on a same column, and the signals C and D are disposed on a same line or on a same column.

7. (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first read-out unit which reads out a difference between: (a) an addition signal of a first row, first column signal and a first row, second column signal, and

(b) an addition signal of a second row, first column signal and a second row, second column signal, in an area of two rows x two columns, and

a second read-out unit which reads out a difference between: (a) an addition signal of a first row, first column signal and a second row, first column signal, and

(b) an addition signal of a first row, second column signal and a second row, second column signal, in the area of two rows x two columns.

8. (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 7, wherein areas of two rows x two columns are disposed without any space therebetween.

9. (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of four rows x one column.

10. (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of one row x four columns.

11 - 39. (Cancelled)